

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DODE-00 HA-09 H-01
INRE-00 INR-01 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00
TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /023W
-----885573 191500Z /38

R 220909Z FEB 76
FM AMCONSUL RECIFE
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
SECSTATE WASHDC 8752
INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 RECIFE 0400

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, BR
SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE NORTHEAST

REF: A) RECIFE 329 (NOTAL) B) BRASILIA 12223

1. (C) SUMMARY. THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIO
IN NORTHEASTERN CAPITALS CHANGED THE CONFIGURATION OF TH
POLITICAL MAP OF THE REGION. THE PFL, THE STRONGEST PAR
AROUND, LOST ITS TWO CAPITALS; THE PMDB KEPT TWO AND
THE PSB WON TWO. THE PSDB LOST IN ITS HOME TURF (CEARA
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BUT WON ONE. ONE CAPITAL IS STILL UNDECIDED (MACEIO) DU
IRREGULARITIES DURING THE ELECTIONS. THE RESULTS REFLEC
THE INFLUENCE OF COLLOR'S IMPEACHMENT PROCESS AND A
REACTION AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT. THE OUTCOME WAS MOR
A PROTEST VOTE THAN A DELIBERATE ENDORSEMENT OF
CENTER-LEFT POLICIES. THE NORTHEASTERN ELECTIONS SHOUL
HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON OUR AGENDA IN BRAZIL. END
SUMMARY.

2. (U) OF THE SEVEN STATES IN RECIFE'S CONSULAR DISTR
THREE CAPITAL CITIES ELECTED MAYORS ON THE FIRST ROUND:
RECIFE (PERNAMBUCO), FORTALEZA (CEARA) AND TERESINA (PIA
SAO LUIZ (MARANHAO), NATAL (RIO GRANDE DO NORTE), JOAO

PEASSOA (PARAIBA) HAD A RUNOFF ELECTION AND MACEIO (ALA) IS STILL SORTING THROUGH ALLEGATIONS OF VOTING IRREGULARITIES IN THE FIRST ROUND (REF A).

3. (U) THERE WERE A FEW SURPRISES. (SEE REF B FOR A COUNTRY WIDE ANALYSIS OF ELECTION RESULTS.) THE CONSERVATIVE PFL, WHOSE STRONGEST BASE OF SUPPORT IS TH NORTHEAST, DID NOT WIN ONE CAPITAL. PFL INCUMBENTS IN RECIFE AND JOAO PESSOA LOST TO PMDB AND PDT CANDIDATES, RESPECTIVELY. IN THE RUNOFF ELECTION IN NATAL, THE PSB CANDIDATE AND POLITICAL PROTEGE OF THE CURRENT MAYOR, WON AN UPSET VICTORY OVER THE PFL'S BY LESS THAN 1,000 VOTES OUT OF ABOUT 250,000 CAST. THE PDT/PSB CANDIDATE ALSO WON THE RUNOFF AGAINST THE PFL CANDIDATE IN SAO LU (SEE PARA 7 FOR A LIST OF MAYORS AND THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.)

4. IN FORTALEZA, THE PSDB CANDIDATE SUPPORTED BY NATIO
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PARTY PRESIDENT TASSO JEREISSATI AND GOVERNOR CIRO GOME LOST. THE PMDB CANDIDATE, SUPPORTED BY THE INCUMBENT A CONSIDERED HIS POLITICAL HEIR, WON A CLEAR VICTORY ON T FIRST ROUND. THE PSDB'S DEFEAT WAS DUE TO SEVERAL BLOT IN THE CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL PAST AND THE POPULARITY OF CURRENT MAYOR, WHO HAS DONE A LOT OF CIVIC WORKS AND HA VISIBLY IMPROVED LIFE IN THE CITY. THE PSDB CANDIDATE TERESINA WON IN THE FIRST ROUND.

5. IN THE "REPUBLIC OF ALAGOAS," AS COLLOR'S HOME STAT KNOWN DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, THE MAYORAL ELECTION IS ST UNDECIDED. LOCAL ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES HAVE CHALLENGED RESULTS OF 40 BALLOT BOXES AND ORDERED A NEW ELECTION. T ARE RUMORS THAT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES MAY BOW OUR OF TH RACE, LEAVING THE ELECTORAL SCENE IN EVEN GREATER CONFU

6. COMMENT. ELECTION RESULTS IN THE NORTHEAST CAN BE ASCRIBED IN PART TO THE EFFECT OF COLLOR'S IMPEACHMENT 0 THE POLITICAL MOOD. THE CONSERVATIVES LOST SOME GROUND THE PT WAS NOT ABLE TO TRANSLATE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT FEELINGS INTO CONCRETE GAINS IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTR THE RESULTS WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL AGENDA.

7. BELOW IS A LIST OF MAYORS, INCUMBENT/PARTY AND ELECTED/PARTY BY CAPITAL CITY.

RECIFE: GILBERTO MARQUES PAULO/PFL--JARBAS VASCONCELOS/

FORTALEZA: JURACY MAGALHAES/PMDB--ANTONIO CAMBRAIA/PMDB

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JOAO PESSOA; CARLOS ALBERTO PINTO MANGUEIRA/PFL--FRANCIS
FRANCA/PDT

NATAL: WILMA MAIA DE FARIAS/EX-PDT NOW UNAFFILIATED--AL
TINOCO/PSB

TERESINA: HERACLITO FORTES/PMDB--WALL FERRAZ/PSDB

SAO LUIZ: JACKSON LAGO/PDT--CONCEICAO ANDRADE/PSB

MACEIO: PEDRO VIEIRA/PSC--UNK

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SECSTATE WASHDC 8753

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 RECIFE 0400

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

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SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE NORTHEAST

SANCHEZ-CARLO

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